When the Bishop of Trieste no longer felt secure from Turkish raiders—his country house had been burnt down by robber bands—, he sold his estates near the village of Lipizza to the House of Hapsburg. In the year 1580 a stud was started there on the barren rocks of the Karst mountains in the healthy Adriatic air. There the noble strain of the Lipizzas was bred. The finest stallions were always sent to Vienna to be trained there for the *haute école*.

In 1785, the baroque passion for building gave birth to the wonderful hall of the Spanish Riding School. The Imperial Court commissioned Fischer von Erlach the Younger to design and construct it. It is so large that it gives the impression of a grandiose and vaulted city square rather than of an enclosed interior.